

Notes from EEDC special planning meeting
March 5, 2013 9 am to 11 am
Town Office

Present: Jason Proulx; Brandon Stauber; Cynthia Tokos; Len Benjamin; Dan Chartrand; Sylvia von Aulock; Doug Eastman; Madeleine Hamel; Russ Dean; Barry Sandberg; Kathy Corson

- * Barry opened meeting, and began with a review of the 2011 Visioning Workshop; results and work plan;
- * Madeleine and Brandon reviewed projects undertaken in their sub-committees Retention & Expansion / Branding & Marketing, respectively;
- * After some discussion, commission members decided it was time for Phase 2 of the EEDC; start fresh and look at our potential role (s) in the community; a new set of goals; and a committee structure to support that;
- * Members suggested stepping back, and taking a realistic assessment of what we can/should do as an EEDC; all around the table were asked to share their ideas;

Suggestions for 2013 included:

- * continue on-going meetings with businesses; engage them in greater participation with Town; outreach to Epping Road developers
- * think about ways to utilize data and reports we have compiled; how to access, maintain and update electronically
- * plan for Business forum(s), with specific topics or issues to draw interest
- * secure intern support
- * look at arts and culture as a way to support and drive economic growth
- * create walkable arts district
- * develop enterprise center; creative think tank; collaborations with community colleges; and medical/health care industry;
- * focus on TIF project, and Sewer/Water sharing of resources; how to think more regionally
- * continue to enhance web presence; link data, best practices, resources ...
- * connect more with local businesses; health care; and education institutions;
- * participate in 375th Celebration;
- * open up websites; inventory; facilitate exchange of information;
- * spearhead a Master Plan Eco. Devp. Chapter;
- * create repository for EEDC meetings, minutes, reports, data, etc.
- * Plan downtown beautification;
- * learn about Form based code; work with Planning Board and ZORC;
- * engage industry and education leaders in workforce development;

* Suggestion made to repeat Visioning process, off-site, with facilitator; idea is to be discussed further at March 12th meeting; Can we do a vision session part 2 in Town Office? Or need to dedicate time and place off-site?

* Look at big picture: who do we want to be?

* What activities/tasks will we undertake?

* What resources will we need?

* How do we structure our committees most effectively?

Follow-up to continue at regular monthly EEDC meeting, March 12th.

Notes compiled by,

Kathy Corson, Clerk

Barry Sandberg, Chair